AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Kindly Amend the specification as follows:

On page 1, after the title and before the first paragraph, please add the following paragraph:

A1 This application is a continuation of prior international application no. PCT/NL00/00554, filed 4 August 2000; which claims priority from European Patent Application No. EP 99202599.9, filed 6 August 1999.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 1 as follows:

A2 The invention relates to a process for molding a polymer. More in particular, the invention relates to a process for molding a copolymer of a polyalkylene glycol ~~terephtalate~~ terephthalate and an aromatic ester.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 5 as follows:

A3 Copolymers of a polyalkylene glycol ~~terephtalate~~ terephthalate and an aromatic esters have been found to possess highly favorable properties, such as biodegradability and biocompatibility. For these reasons, they are finding application in tissue engineering applications, such as in the function of scaffolds for seeding cells of different types. Particularly, copolymers of polyethylene glycol ~~terephtalate~~ terephthalate (PEGT) and polybutylene terephthalate, which are known under the name of Polyactive®, have been found to give promising results in this regard.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 27 as follows:

A4 Under certain circumstances, it is desired to be able to produce a solid body of a polymer without subjecting it to the high temperatures required for obtaining a melt. Often the thermal strain imposed on a polymeric material during extrusion is undesired. Particular (partial) oxidation of the polymeric material is to be avoided. it is accordingly an object of the present invention to provide a method of molding a copolymer of a polyalkylene glycol ~~terephtalate~~

terephthalate and an aromatic ester which leads in an efficient manner to a solid body of a desired shape under mild conditions.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 3 as follows:

Further, in particular in view of the above referred to applications of the copolymers it is often desired to be able to incorporate (bioactive) additives in the solid bodies to be formed. For instance, the presence of growth factors may be very much desired in order to enhance cell growth or differentiation. As many of these bioactive additives are very sensitive compounds the need for working under mild conditions becomes even more important. it is thus a further object of the invention to provide a method for molding a copolymer of a polyalkylene glycol ~~terephtalate~~ terephthalate and an aromatic ester under mild conditions, which method can conveniently be adapted in order to incorporate additives into the solid body to be formed.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 16 as follows:

Surprisingly it has now been found that the properties of copolymers of a polyalkylene glycol ~~terephtalate~~ terephthalate and an aromatic ester make it possible to produce solid bodies of them in a gel molding process. Accordingly, the invention relates to a process for molding a copolymer of a polyalkylene glycol ~~terephtalate~~ terephthalate and an aromatic ester, comprising the steps of:

a) preparing a solution of the copolymer in as suitable first solvent; and

b) forming a gel of the solution.

The present process does not involve the preparation of a melt of the copolymer It has been found that, in accordance with the invention, the copolymer may be molded into any desired shape under very mild conditions. The solvents used can advantageously be recovered and recycled.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 31 as follows:

The copolymer which is formed into a solid body according to the invention, is a copolymer of a polyalkylene glycol ~~terephtalate~~ terephthalate and an aromatic polyester. Preferably, the copolymer comprises 20-90 wt.%, more preferably 40-70 wt.% of the polyalkylene glycol ~~terephtalate~~ terephthalate and 80-10 wt.%, more preferably 60-30 wt.% of

A7

the aromatic polyester. A preferred type of copolymers according to the invention is formed by the group of block copolymers.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 3 as follows:

A8

The polyalkylene glycol ~~terephtalate~~ terephthalate may have a weight average molecular weight of about 150 to about 4000. Preferably, the polyalkylene glycol ~~terephtalate~~ terephthalate has a weight average molecular weight of 200 to 1500. The aromatic polyester Preferably has a weight average molecular weight of from 200 to 5000, more preferably from 250 to 4000. The weight average molecular weight of the copolymer preferably lies between 10,000 and 300,000, more preferably between 40,000 and 120,000.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 26 as follows:

A9

In a preferred embodiment, the polyalkylene glycol ~~terephtalate~~ terephthalate component has units of the formula -OLO-CO-Q-CO-, wherein O represents oxygen, C represents carbon, L is a divalent organic radical remaining after removal of terminal hydroxyl groups from a poly(oxyalkylene)glycol, and Q is a divalent organic radical.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 32 as follows:

A10

Preferred polyalkylene glycol ~~terephtalates~~ terephthalates are chosen from the group of polyethylene glycol ~~terephtalate~~ terephthalate polypropylene glycol ~~terephtalate~~ terephthalate, and polybutylene glycol ~~terephtalate~~ terephthalate and copolymers thereof, such as poloxamers. A highly preferred polyalkylene glycol ~~terephtalate~~ terephthalate is polyethylene glycol ~~terephtalate~~ terephthalate.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 3 as follows:

A11

The terms alkylene and polyalkylene generally refer to any isomeric structure, i.e. propylene comprises both 1,2-propylene and 1,3-propylene, butylene comprises 1,2-butylene, 1,3-butylene, 2,3-butylene, 1,2-isobutylene 1,3-isobutylene and 1,4-isobutylene (tetramethylene) and similarly for higher alkylene homologues The polyalkylene glycol ~~terephtalate~~ terephthalate component is preferably terminated with a dicarboxylic acid residue -CO-Q-CO-, if necessary to provide a coupling to the polyester component. Group Q may be an aromatic group

A11

having the same definition as R, or may be an aliphatic group such as ethylene, propylene, butylene and the like.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 23 as follows:

A12

The preparation of the copolymer will now be explained by way of example for a polyethylene glycol ~~terephtalate~~ terephthalate/polybutylene terephthalate copolymer. Based on this description the skilled person will be able to prepare any desired copolymer within the above described class. An alternative manner for preparing polyalkylene glycol ~~terephtalate~~ terephthalate/polyester copolymers is disclosed in US-A-3,908,201.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 31 as follows:

A13

A polyethylene glycol ~~terephtalate~~ terephthalate/polybutylene terephthalate copolymer may be synthesized from a mixture of dimethyl terephthalate, butanediol (in excess), polyethylene glycol, an antioxidant and a catalyst. The mixture is placed in a reaction vessel and heated to about 180°C, and methanol is distilled as transesterification proceeds. During the transesterification the ester bond with methyl is replaced with an ester bond with butylene and/or the polyethyene glycol.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 14 as follows:

A14

In accordance with the invention, the copolymer is first dissolved in a suitable solvent, by which is meant that a substantially homogeneous, one phase mixture is prepared of the copolymer and said suitable solvent. Depending on the nature of the copolymer and the solvent, it may be necessary to work at elevated temperature in order to dissolve the copolymer. However, the temperature required for this step will always be low in comparison with the temperature that would be needed to prepare a melt of the copolymer. Thus, the present process allows the molding of the copolymer under mild conditions. Suitable temperatures for preparing the solution will be below the boiling temperature of the solvent, preferably between 20°C and 200°C, more preferably between 30°C and 100°C.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 6 as follows:

A15

The term "biologically active agent", as used herein, means an agent which provides a therapeutic or prophylactic effect. Such agents include, but are not limited to, antimicrobial agents (including antibacterial and anti-fungal agents), anti-viral agents, anti-tumor agents, hormones, immunogenic agents, growth factors, lipids, and lipopolysaccharides.

Please amend the section beginning at page 10, line 9 as follows:

A16

16.1.1 *Mineralocorticosteroids*: cortisol, desoxycorticosterone, ~~flurohydrocortisone~~ fluorohydrocortisone

16.1.2 *Glucocorticosteroids*: beclomethasone, betamethasone, cortisone, dexamethasone, fluocinolone, fluocinonide, fluocortolone, fluorometholone, ~~fluprednisolone~~ fluoprednisolone, flurandrenolide, halcinonide, hydrocortisone, medrysone, methylprednisolone, paramethasone, prednisolone, prednisone, triamcinolone (acetonide)

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 18 as follows:

A17

When a non-peptide, non-protein, small-sized drug, such as those described above, is to be incorporated, the polyalkylene glycol ~~terephtalate~~ terephthalate component of the copolymer preferably has a molecular weight of from about 200 to 400. Also, the polyalkylene glycol ~~terephtalate~~ terephthalate component is present in the copolymer in an amount of from 20 wt.% to 90 wt.% of the weight of the copolymer, preferably from about 40 wt.% to about 70 wt.% of the weight of the copolymer, In general, the aromatic polyester is present in the copolymer in an amount of from 10 wt.% to 80 wt.% of the copolymer, preferably in an amount of from about 30 wt.% to about 60 wt.% of the copolymer.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 17, line 24 as follows:

A18

In a beaker, 100 grams of a copolymer of polyethylene glycol ~~terephtalate~~ terephthalate (PEGT, M_w = 1148) and polybutylene terephthalate (PBT), wherein the weight ratio of PEGT to PBT was 60 to 40, were dissolved in 200 ml N-methylpyrrolidone (NMP) at a temperature of 100°C by manual stirring. After approximately 30 minutes, a homogeneous solution was obtained.